

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants confirm that claims 1, 8-9, 15-16, 23-24, 26, and 28 are withdrawn from consideration in the previous election made by the Applicants on December 8, 2008. By the present amendment, claims 18-20 and 25 are canceled; and claims 21-22 and 27 are amended. No new subject matter is introduced into the disclosure by way of the present amendment. Claims 21-22 and 27 are pending in the application with claims 1 and 27 being in independent form.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 21 contains allowable subject matter, if amended to include the features of its base claim 18 and intervening claims 19 and 20.

Objection

Claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable, if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 21 is amended to include all of the limitations of claims 18-20, from which claim 21 depends. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection with respect to claim 21.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e)

In Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 18-20, 22, 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,569,084 to Mizuno et al., (hereinafter "Mizuno"). Claims 18-20 and 25 are canceled, rendering their rejections moot. Claim 22 is amended to depend on claim 21, which is allowable, and, therefore, claim 22 is patentable for at

least the same reason as claim 21. Independent claim 27 is amended to include allowable subject matter recited in claim 21. Therefore, claim 27 is patentable for at least the same reason as claim 21.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, claims 21-22 and 27, are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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